

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/612,087

Examiner

Nasser Ahmad

Applicant(s)

KATOH ET AL.

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/12/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,4-7,9 and 15-23.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other See Continuation Sheet.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 9. Other: Drawings filed on 7/3/2003 are acceptable to the examiner.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

A review of applicants' arguments filed in amendment of 9/12/2006 and a review of the instant amended claims has convinced the examiner that the claims are allowable over the applied prior art of record. The prior art fails to teach or suggest a laminate sheet comprising (1) a plurality of adhesive sheet portions laminated on a long release sheet and (2) a protective member is laminated on the release sheet, wherein the protective member is thicker than the adhesive sheet portion and spaced apart from the adhesive sheet portion, such that:

(a) the protective member do not overlap the adhesive sheet portions and the adhesive sheet portions are located in a central portion with protective member is provided on both side portions of the release sheet (claim 2); or

(b) the protective member partially overlap the adhesive sheet portions and the adhesive sheet portions are located in a central portion with protective member is provided on both side portions of the release sheet in a wave-shape that intrudes in the gaps between adjacent adhesive portions (claim 4); or

(c) the protective member do not overlap the adhesive sheet portions and the adhesive sheet portions comprises a base material constituted by a resin sheet and an adhesive layer (claim 7); or

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- (d) the protective member partially overlap the adhesive sheet portions and the adhesive sheet portions comprises a base material constituted by a resin sheet and an adhesive layer (claim 16); or
- (e) the protective member partially overlap the adhesive sheet portions and the adhesive sheet portions and the adhesive sheet portions have a size and form that conforms to a surface of an optical disc (claim 17); or
- (f) the protective member do not overlap the adhesive sheet portions and the adhesive sheet portions comprises a base material and an adhesive layer is in continuous contact with the release sheet (claim 19); or
- (f) the protective member partially overlap the adhesive sheet portions and the adhesive sheet portions comprises a base material and an adhesive layer is in continuous contact with the release sheet (claim 20).

Also, no evidentiary support could be provided to support the position that the instant claimed invention would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

The closest prior art of BLANCHARD (USP 3349765) relates to a laminate with adhesive in the central portion and protective member along the two side edges (figure-2), BUT fails to teach that the protective members are thicker than the adhesive portions and the adhesive portions with the protective members are attached to a backing that is not a release sheet.

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Another reference GERMAN DE 599159 relates to a laminate with discs along the central portion BUT the side edges are adhesive-free and hence, not thicker as claimed.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nasser Ahmad whose telephone number is 571-272-1487. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, and on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Nasser Ahmad 9/27/06
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1772

N. Ahmad.
September 27, 2006